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INSIDE

19 Innovative Interiors

Invisible or inspired, they are created with purpose by professionals.

21 The State-of-the-Art Kitchen

It's not just technology, it's integrated, functional design.

25 Professional Panel

Experts share their views on current Saskatoon interior style.

30 Residential Redux

An interior make-over opens up this home's inner potential.

7 FRONTLINES

Vital News for Homeowners

Design Week, housing starts and new projects.

13 PROFILE

Interior Designer Marian Hoffos

She's a proven professional with people skills.

15 SUPPLIERS

Changes Underfoot

Carpets make a creative comeback.

17 DESIGN

The Enhanced Bathroom

The new 'go-to' room is sleek, chic and sustainable.

35 DECOR

Paint Predictions 2010

Find the new interior paint trends here.

39 SPOTLIGHT

Old Meets New

Wallpaper is the new 'wow' solution.

41 GREEN

Eye-friendly, Earth-friendly

Decorate with beauty and sustainability.

43 STYLE

Have a Hearth

The new fireplace can be the heart of your home.

44 BACKWORDS

Concordia Rising

The German Club rises from the ashes.

COVER:

This one-of-a-kind kitchen was designed by Redl World Class Kitchens, a Saskatoon company with international success.

Saskatoon: the inside scoop

Saskatoon is a stylish town, judging by the high quality design nominees for the Premier's Awards of Excellence during Design Week, that took place at the end of October. In addition, the presentations were very forward-thinking. It only makes sense that Design Week was held in conjunction with the Building Saskatchewan Green Conference, since most design these days includes sustainability issues.

This issue is devoted to interior décor and design in Saskatoon homes. We've rounded up an exemplary team of interior decorators, designers, suppliers and contractors to give you some

timely advice and exciting ideas on how you can make your interiors the most personal, comfortable and attractive they can possibly be.

One theme that emerges in the articles we've presented here is how Saskatoon homeowners are customizing their abodes according to their needs and tastes as opposed to major trends. As well, there is a movement towards considering the "green" aspects of everything--whether it's low VOC paints to water-conserving bathroom features.

Designing a state-of-the-art kitchen is our primary feature. Kitchens continue to be the room in the house most people upgrade first

because of its popularity as a gathering place and the return on investment.

We also present our renowned Professional Panel – four professionals share their views and wisdom on the latest in Saskatoon interior décor and design.

In Showcase and Spotlight, you'll find two outstanding homes which are unique examples of how people can customize their interiors to reflect their unique tastes and lifestyles.

In our departments this issue, you'll find some great ideas and practical information on carpets, bathrooms, paint, wallpaper, fireplaces and sustainable décor.

Backwords is a particularly personal salute to the German Club that burned down recently. The Pexas profiled, who were so involved in the club, are the grandparents of Jeff Pexa, former publisher of Saskatoon Home. The German Club also meant a lot to many Saskatoon residents over the years.

Please enjoy the services of the many professionals and suppliers who advertise in Saskatoon Home. They are here to help you make your home the best it can possibly be.

Speaking of publishers, our new publisher is Amanda Soulodre of Farmhouse Communications. She takes a keen interest, as Jeff did, in the continuing evolution of Saskatoon Home to bring you the best quality information for you to make the most of your residence. I truly look forward to working with her.

DONA STURMANIS, EDITOR

HOME

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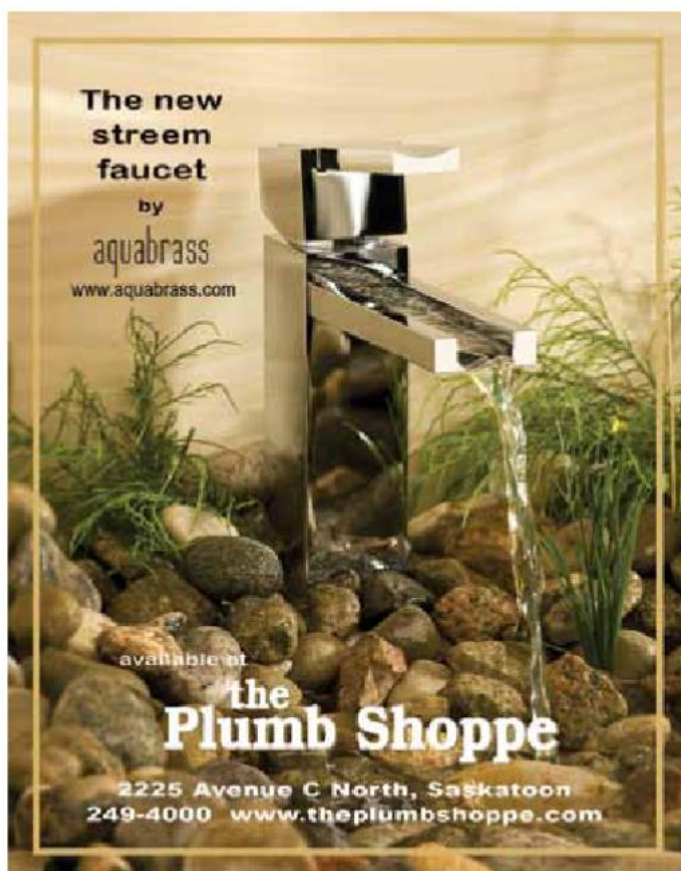
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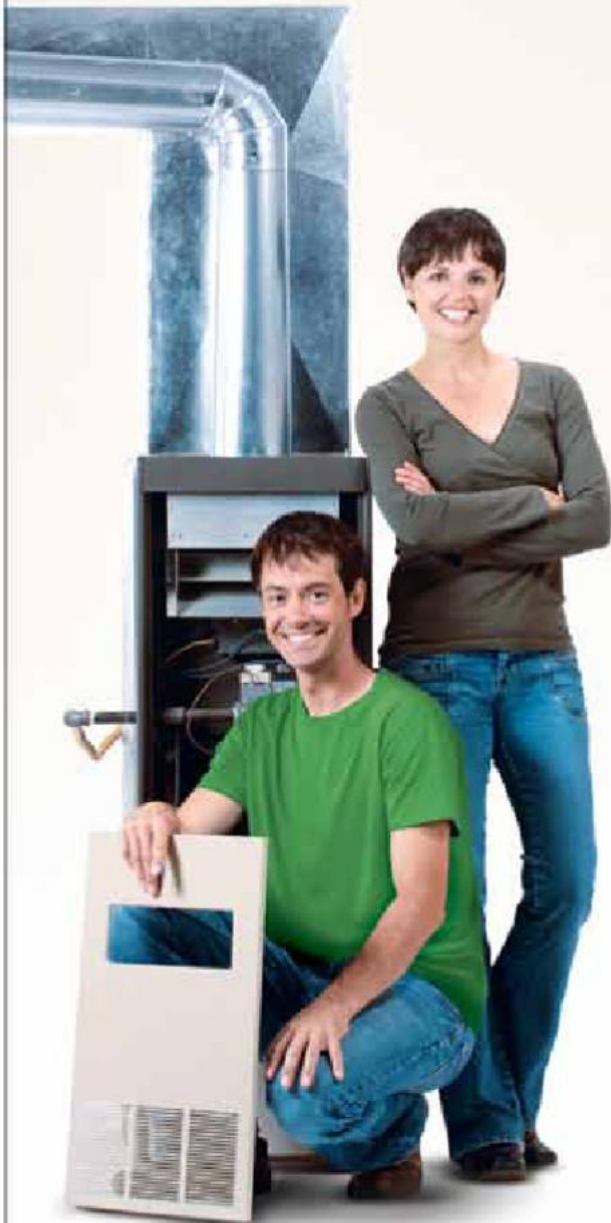
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FRONTLINES

Saskatchewan Design Week:

"A Lot of Cool Stuff Going On"

Design Week 2009, held in Saskatoon, October 26 to 30, proved to be a hit with the public, as well as Saskatchewan design professionals.

"There was definitely a mix (of design professions and public)," said Rebecca Stewart, a Design Week organizer, who also works for Stantec Architecture & In-

terior Design. "That's really the point of Design Week — to involve design professionals, to educate the public, and to promote good design."

Design Week, held every two years, is organized by the Design Council of Saskatchewan. This year, for the first time, the event was held in conjunction with the Building Saskatchewan Green Conference, October 29 and 30, organized by the Saskatchewan chapter of the Canada Green Building Council.

The week-long celebration of Saskatchewan design culminated in the Premier's Awards of Excellence in Design, October 30, hosted by Zu.Com Communications Inc., a web design company. Entries for the competition were displayed at the Frank and Ellen Remai Arts Centre in Persephone Theatre, where the opening keynote speaker event was held to start off Design Week.

"There's pretty cool stuff happening, particularly in Saskatoon," Stewart said. "It's nice to have such an exciting

event and to be promoting design somewhere that's seeing a lot of change."

The design awards say a lot about the quality of design work in Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon in particular, she said, adding that more entries were submitted this year than in any year previously.

"There's a great degree of high quality work going on," she said. "It's nice to see everybody getting excited about that and wanting to be involved, wanting to be a part of it, wanting to win

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and — most of all — wanting to go forward and do better work and really push that envelope to be more creative.”

Design Week kicked off with an opening night reception and Robin Smith Memorial Lecture at Persephone Theatre, October 26, featuring Cynthia Girling, professor and chair of the landscape architecture program at the University of British Columbia, and Angelika Ortlepp, an electrical engineer and owner of Sun-catcher Solar, a Saskatoon-based solar engineering company.

The speaker series continued October 27 at the Saskatoon Club with George Dark, an urban designer and landscape architect working with Toronto-based Urban Strategies planning and urban design firm, and Bill Black, national director of strategic business solutions at Haworth modular interior office manufacturer in Calgary.

October 28 at the Roxy Theatre was presented by Great Places in conjunction with the Canadian Pacific Railway Partnership Program in Aboriginal Community Planning. Patrick Stewart, an acclaimed Nisga'a architect and community planner from British Columbia, presented “Indigeneity in Architecture & Urban Design: A Saskatchewan Context.”

Daniel Roehr, a registered landscape architect in Berlin and Vancouver and assistant professor at the University of British Columbia, presented the Building Saskatchewan Green luncheon keynote address on October 30. Roehr's research areas are green roofs, green fa-

acades, green streets and agriculture in cities.

The Design Council of Saskatchewan is “the collective voice of six associations representing design professionals working in the disciplines of architecture, community planning, engineering, graphic design, interior design and landscape architecture.” The council promotes awareness of applied design and recognizes design excellence.

DARRELL NOAKES

**September
Housing Starts
Down Everywhere
Except Prairies —
CMHC**

Prairie cities, including Saskatoon, escaped a national 5.2 per cent decline in urban housing starts in September. September's decline came on the heels of an upsurge in housing starts in August.

The seasonally adjusted annual rate of housing starts reached 150,100 units in September compared to 157,300 units in August, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

“The decline in housing starts in September is attributable to the volatile multiple starts segment,” said Bob Dugan, chief economist at CMHC's Market Analysis Centre. “However, starts of single homes, which are a barometer of the trend in housing markets, climbed in September to reach their highest level so far this year. The rebound in existing home sales and the upward trend in new home construction, support our expectation that housing de-

mand has strengthened and that housing starts will be stronger in the second half of 2009."

In August, housing starts increased to 150,400 units from 134,200 units in July, a figure that included a 16.1 per cent increase in urban starts on the prairies.

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Housing Activity to Rebound Second Half of 2009 and in 2010

Housing starts are expected to rebound in the second half of 2009 and will reach 141,900 for the year. Starts will increase to 150,300 for 2010, according to Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) third quarter Housing Market

Outlook, Canada Edition report. The overall forecast totals for housing starts remain unchanged from the second quarter release.

"Economic uncertainty and lower levels of employment tempered new housing construction in the first half of this year", said Bob Dugan, chief economist for CMHC. "In the second half of 2009 and in 2010, we expect housing markets across Canada to strengthen."

Improving activity on the resale market and lower inventory levels in both the new and existing home markets are expected to prompt builders to increase residential construction.

Existing home sales, as measured by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS), have rebounded strongly since January and will reach 420,700 units in 2009 and



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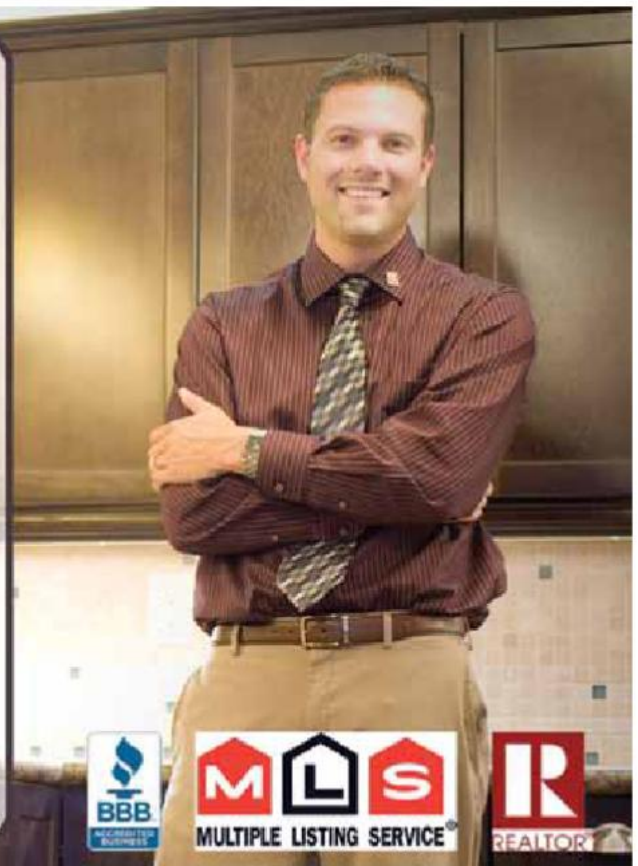
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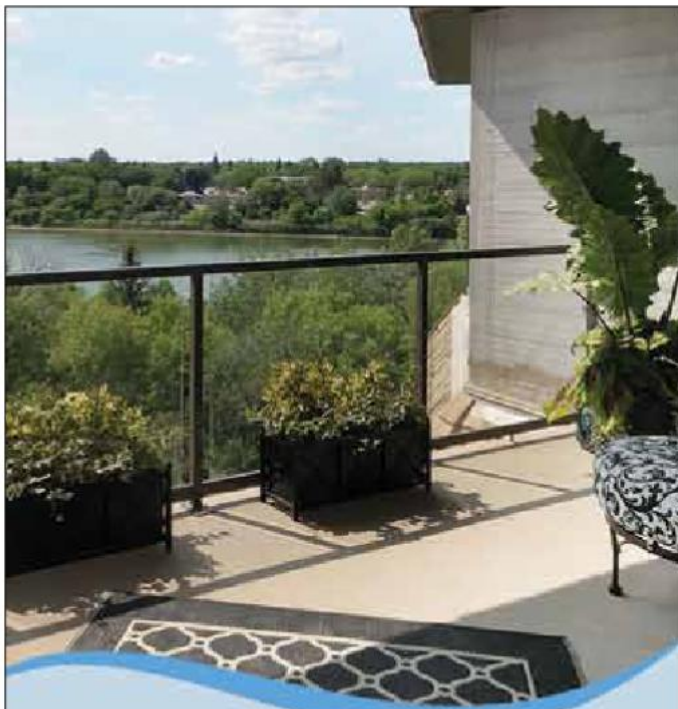
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remain close to that level at 419,400 units in 2010. The average MLS price is expected to moderate to \$301,400 in 2009 and to increase to \$306,300 in 2010.

CANADA MORTGAGE &
HOUSING CORPORATION

Seniors Housing Project Opens in Saskatoon

There is more affordable housing for seniors in Saskatoon, thanks to a \$2.8 million federal, provincial and municipal funding partnership. Bethany Manor, a 56-unit affordable rental housing complex for low to moderate-income seniors, was officially opened October 30.

"As our population ages, there is a growing need for quality, affordable housing that will allow seniors to continue to live in their communities with dignity and independence," said Joceline Schriemer, MLA for Saskatoon-Sutherland.

"Bethany Manor means so much to the seniors in Saskatoon," said Mayor Donald Atchison. "It provides affordable housing to a very important target population as identified in

the Saskatoon Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing".

Located at 210 Pinehouse Drive in the Lawson Heights area of Saskatoon, Bethany Manor consists of 56 one and two bedroom life-lease and affordable rental housing units for low and moderate-income seniors in a supportive setting. The project was undertaken by Saskatoon Mennonite Care Services Inc., a community-based non-profit corporation established in Saskatoon in 1981.

The building's innovative geothermal heating and cooling system, worth approximately \$1.1 million, is expected to save approximately \$100,000 a year in utility and operational costs and result in a reduction of almost 3 million kilograms of carbon dioxide annually.

The total cost of the project is approximately \$7.7 million. The federal, provincial and municipal governments contributed \$2.8 million for construction: \$1.4 million from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation; \$1.1 million from Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, and \$280,000 from the City of Saskatoon.

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PROFILE

Interior Designer Marian Hoffos:

**A Solid
Professional
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A "Good Bedside
Manner"**

Not unlike many of us, Marian Hoffos, a registered interior designer in Saskatoon, dreamt of several career options. She excelled in fine arts and was drawn to the field of medicine. Deciding was tough until friends introduced her to design, a career that melded creativity with the need for a "good bedside manner."

After graduating with a certificate in design from Mount Royal College, she worked for Holliday-Scott Interiors. Two years later, Hoffos was given a take-it-or-leave-it offer-- partnership in the business or no job at all. Her boss, Colin Holliday-Scott, an interior designer transplant from England and owner of company, was moving to the west coast to pursue new business ventures.

With youthful idealism, Hoffos became a partner in 1986 and three years later, owner of a successful business enterprise now operating for over 23 years.

"Ironically, in the early 70s, my parents hired Colin



Photo: Courtesy Marian Hoffos

This kitchen was designed by Marian Hoffos.

to do a major renovation to our house," says Hoffos. "Maybe it was in the back of my mind all along and it did not hit me until I was a bit older that this was my career in life."

With ownership, Hoffos renamed the company Holliday-Scott Interiors Design Studio. Its predecessor was known as a residential and retail design firm. Forging her own company identity, Hoffos started to focus on commercial and hospitality and still continued in residential design. Keeping part of the name had its challenges.

"I tried to get away from

the word decorating and still today, some people don't look at my company as being commercial as much as other companies," says Hoffos. "Standing behind the name Holliday-Scott Interiors, people assumed we only did residential."

Interior Designer or Interior Decorator?

A decorator consults on the décor inside a building. A registered interior designer deals with the structure, needing to be knowledgeable about building codes and millwork and also offer advice on décor. They create design concepts and

floor plans, coordinate the tendering process, oversee product selection best suited for the job, project manage and are the liaison between the client and contractors. This difference is a facet Hoffos addresses daily with clients.

In Saskatchewan, an interior designer must complete seven years of accumulated apprentice training and education and pass an exam to obtain registration. Hoffos holds a membership in the Interior Designers Association of Saskatchewan and has worked hard preserving these professional standards as a board member for over 15 years, three terms as president.

Design Must Be People-friendly

Twenty-five years working in the field, Hoffos says her design inspiration comes from exploring her clients' needs and understanding their lifestyle. Listening is important.

"I design for the future and not just for the moment," says Hoffos. "It comes down to the people or the space I'm working with. I get to know my clients and what they want their space to be like. Creativity may come from all kinds of places."

For an office redesign, she may sit in the reception area and note the flow of people and the way in which staff greet one another.

Unique projects and the enjoyment of interacting with people keeps her career interesting.

Her work on the YWCA women's shelter living quarters renovation holds a special place in her heart.

"If you would have seen the shelter prior to the major renovation, it was depressing. It looked like a jail without a key. I wanted to bring happiness to the ladies and kids who had to temporarily live there. It was awesome because it was so nice to know I was helping people in need and it would

benefit them psychologically and make their lives a bit brighter."

From renovating living quarters for contractors of a mining company to redesigning corporate offices, washrooms and a fitness centre, Hoffos easily blends her residential and commercial experience to bring the sense of home to a working environment.

"Something like replacing lighting that is functional but doesn't look so institutional makes for a more relaxing environment. If the space is enjoyable and in-

spiring to staff, they will be more respectful of it and feel special and important. I've had many staff members come to me and say I want to come to work now. When you hear that, that's just so pleasing."

When it comes to residential design, Hoffos takes into account that many people do not renovate often in their life time. It is usually one big project, which means more explanations on her part.

"I've got to know who to communicate with regarding decision-making," Hoffos says. "I want to get to know their children, their pets and who is in charge, the husband or the wife. Sometimes, the man is the one I go to for all the answers, because he's the creative one."

She says she could write a book. She has designed for bachelors and acted as a stand-in wife, for husbands and wives who walked out on each other, for clients who worry and call in the middle of the night. She says this is where her bedside manner comes in.



Marian Hoffos, Interior Designer, owner of Holliday-Scott Interiors Design Studio Ltd.

"What I love about residential is that you can reuse a space for something totally different. You don't have to build out always. I design new homes but would rather take a structure and make it work within the space because it is a challenge, and you have to work around the electrical or a post in the middle of the kitchen. How do you make that look proper so it looks like it was supposed to be there?"

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SUPPLIERS

Changes Underfoot: Carpets Make a Comeback

You may be surprised: Carpets still maintain 55% of all flooring sales, despite a trend to hard flooring surfaces. Easy to maintain, and durable without worrying about humidity effects, dents or scratches, carpet lends style and design to a home while adding to its overall comfort and warmth.

For those who have vied away from carpets due to allergies, new studies have shown that carpets, when maintained properly, can actually aid in improving the air quality of a home rather than detract from it. Acting as an air filter, carpets can trap many airborne allergens, which can easily be removed from the home with vacuuming and steam cleaning processes. Compare that with hard surfaces where allergens simply sit on the surface to be stirred up with every passing movement.

Changing with the times, carpets have become more modern with contemporary colours, patterns and textures. In other words, people get a chance to express themselves through the largest décor feature of their home.



Photos: Courtesy Braid Flooring

A carpet in the right shade can be the major decor feature of a home.

"People are really starting to show their personalities through their carpets," says Christian Braid, of Braid Flooring. "The majority of the time that people and their guests spend in a home is spent in the family room, great room, or living room. Places where you would generally put carpet. So people are putting a lot of thought into choosing their carpets as a way of expressing their design aspirations."

Ryley Haskins of Western Carpet One agrees, and says that's just one of the reasons people are looking to patterned carpets for their designs.

"Today's popular choice for a carpet are those that

feature a little bit of pattern," says Haskins. "A diamond shape, geometric linear pattern, subtle pin dot pattern, or even something a little more elaborate. The carpet industry has really responded to the exodus away from carpets by coming out with really unique pieces that are bringing the interest back."

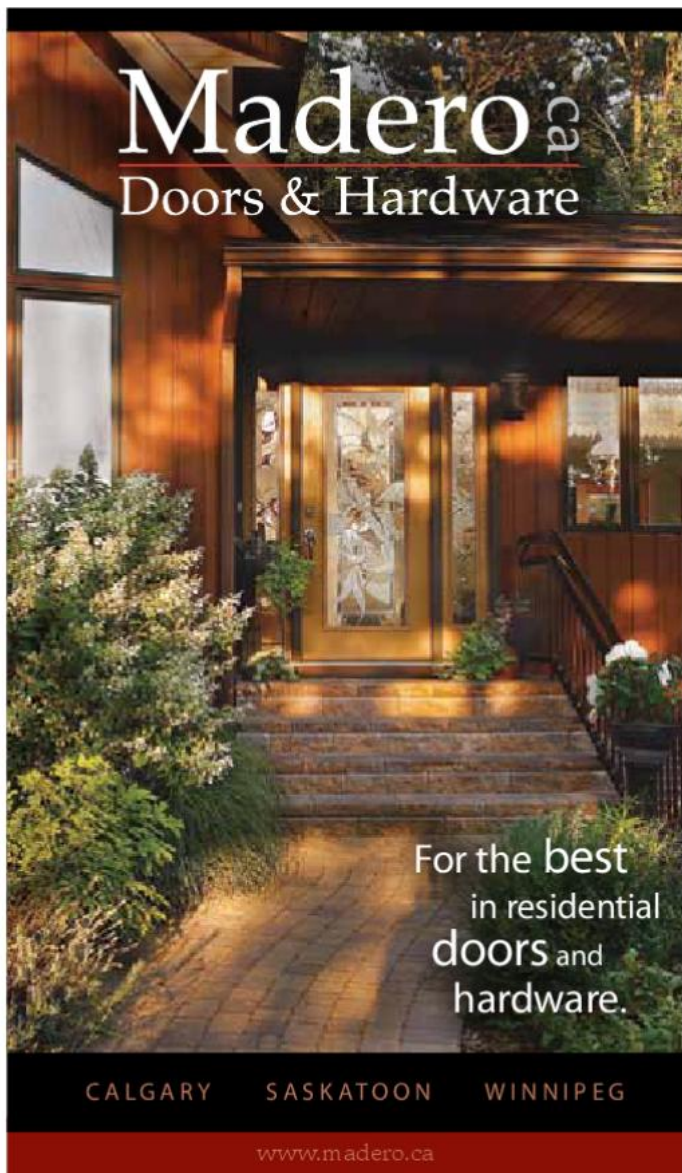
Texture is another way people are choosing to add that design element to their homes, whether it be a shorter patterned Berber, or the new resurgence of shag-styled carpeting, albeit in a shorter more contemporary style known as Frieze.

"It was a popular style a

long time ago," says Braid, "and while it has always been available in a variety of colours, it was still very standard with no expression to it, but today's new patterns, combined with a wide array of colours, has allowed it to experience a resurgence."

For colour, Braid says today's trend is moving away from the espressos and browns that have been popular for the past few years, and moving towards lighter colours that still feature the warmth of brown, without the high maintenance.

"We're definitely starting to see some really warm grey tones coming back," says



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Braid. "While the browns and espressos really look great in magazine pictures, people started to realize how hard their clean looks are to maintain. With a warm grey tone, the dust and dirt can remain better hidden."

Whatever colour people eventually choose for carpeting, chances are, says Haskins, they are going to continue with it throughout their home.

"Back in the 80s, you would have the pink room, the blue room and the brown room, but nowadays people are wanting to go continuous with their colour through the whole house."

With today's open home concepts, a single colour used throughout gives the home a more unified look, and gives older homes, where the practice is emulated, a more contemporary feel.

"There are still those who like to express themselves with a bit of colour," adds Haskins. "And the colours are there. They're just keeping them more to the bedrooms and basements, and choosing a single unifying colour for the rest of the house."

GAIL JANSEN



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DESIGN

The Enhanced Bathroom:

Easy on the Eye,
Body and
Environment

The contemporary bathroom isn't the utilitarian place it used to be. What was once the simple "to go" room has become one of the more attractive, luxurious, eco-friendly "go to" locales in the home.

Enhanced bathrooms provide great personal pleasure and function, and also add value to a home. A recent Royal Bank of Canada survey says 73 per cent of prairie homeowners will make improvements to their homes over the next 24 months. Ask any realtor or interior designer: bathrooms are popular rooms to upgrade.

That means bigger spaces and more spa-like environments, says Corinne Kaye, renovation design team leader with Centennial. "Clients are more savvy when it comes to bathroom design," she explains. "The demand is for fixtures that are easy to clean, environmentally-friendly, and beautifully-designed. Bathroom fixtures have come a long way from the standard five-foot steel enamel tub."

Gordon Bethel of The Plumb Shoppe agrees. "People look at extras like steam showers and massage tubs



Photos: Courtesy Kitchen and Bath Classics.

White, glass and chrome give a bathroom a modern, minimalist look

with sleeker lines and easy-to-clean fixtures." People want to spend more time luxuriating in the bathroom, he says. That doesn't mean more time cleaning it.

New materials used in the bathroom allow for more style than ever before. One-inch thick polymer allows for curves or highly-accented angles for sinks and free-standing tubs, says Kaye. "Thin is in. From tubs and faucets to cabinets and tile, clients are choosing a clean, thin profile," she says.

Ergonomic and functional are watchwords for Lori Nadrowski, Saskatoon showroom manager at Kitchen and Bath Classics. "Most

people are moving toward a transitional style, away from the fussy ornate and towards a smooth, streamlined, organic look. Lots of white, chrome or brushed nickel." Improving the main, most visible bathroom used by family and guests is popular. Developing a bathroom into a home spa is also gaining momentum.

"We can plan for that bigger spa in a new home, but in a reno we don't always have a lot of room," Nadrowski explains. "But in the basement, it's very easy to put in that dream spa because the hot water heater, cold water and plumbing are all right there. You've got room for corner

tubs, multi-function showers. Steam suites in tile or marble— even converting a walk-in shower— are healthful features that people are very interested in."

It's Good to Go Green

For added peace of mind, there are more than just environmental green advantages to bathroom upgrades. There are greenbacks, too. The popular Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program, funded through the Ministry of Environment's Go Green Fund, provides a \$50 rebate to home and multi-unit complex owners who replace a high-volume toilet (13-litre per flush or higher) with a dual-flush or 6-litre or less-per-flush toilet. Residents who have been approved for this program may be eligible for further rebates from their municipality. Visit the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority site: www.swa.ca. The EnergyGuide program also offers rebates.

Nadrowski of Kitchen and Bath Classics sees the need for "frank talk about toilets" because there are lots of options. Dual-flush toilets with the option of liquid or solid flushes are very popular "at the cabin or acreage and we're seeing many more being installed in the city. A good choice for anyone concerned about saving water."

Not all low-flush and dual-flush toilets are created

equally, so research is important. Says Gordon Bethel of The Plumb Shoppe, "We offer products designed to perform at the reduced water levels as opposed to quick fixes that really don't solve the problem," he says. "A low-water toilet that flushes a large amount may be a great selling point, but if it won't flush the small or medium loads, well, is it worth it?"

Just because something is advertised as environmentally-friendly doesn't mean it always is. The MaP (Maximum Performance) test is a valuable source of information indicating a toilet's flushing capabilities. Manufacturers submit their products to Veritec for testing-- it's independent research (www.veritec.ca), but Bethel cautions that the results don't necessarily give the whole picture. A toilet that flushes

1000 grams of waste each time may be designed to do just that, but the bowl might end up dirty after each use, because not enough water is utilized to clean it. Or, a toilet may flush a large amount, but may leave 'particulate' behind on smaller loads.

There are many factors in modern toilet engineering and the consumer can be bewildered by all the differences. "Talk to a retailer you trust about what will work best for you," says Bethel.

Today's enhanced bathroom is all about cozy comfort. No more shivering as you step out of the shower. "Because of our Saskatchewan climate, clients are looking for additional warmth in their bathing space," says Corinne Kaye of Centennial. "People are installing heated tile floors and luxurious towel warmers."

An Array of Sophisticated Fixtures and Accessories

Other popular new bathroom must-haves include: higher-level toilets and vanities, square tubs, in-shower lighting, stylish grab bars for tub and shower, slide rails for adjustable shower height, hand-held shower attachments, tiled surfaces, no-fog mirrors, low-profile edges on drop-in tubs (no more bulky tub deck), gravity-fed shower heads, artful vessel sinks and free-standing cabinets designed as stand-alone pieces of furniture. Gone are the institutional-looking features of yesterday's bathroom; they're now just as sleek and stylish as they are functional.

With more space, organic and smooth lines, sophisticated fixtures and green features, today's bathroom is a peaceful sanctuary that leaves a gentler footprint on the planet. Appropriately, the

Swahili phrase for bathroom *pirit na taling* means "place of silence." So sit back, relax and soak up the serenity.

KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

Information

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306.249.4000
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Left: Christina, Alison, Natasha, Debbie, Luanne Seated: Rob

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Innovative Interiors: Sometimes Invisible, Often Inspired and Individual

Until recently, interior design wasn't something that many of us would think about. It hasn't been something we typically considered in our residential spaces. We take it for granted in the commercial settings we visit — dentists' offices, restaurants and even our workplaces.

- DARRELL NOAKES





Most of the time, it's invisible, like the air that surrounds us. In fact, for some settings, the best interior design is invisible; it creates a zone of comfort without calling attention to itself. Of course, if it were explained to you, you'd have no trouble recognizing it — that "aha" moment — the same way that you become aware of your own heartbeat the instant someone began to take your pulse. In those places, the design is invisible because it improves the way you go about your business without getting in the way and without your even noticing it.

Other times, we like it when design stands out. Think of your favourite restaurant or lounge — or the waiting area of your dentist's or doctor's office. The design is not only memorable, but it establishes your mood and influences it even after you have left the location behind. The restaurant does much more than make you feel relaxed or excited, depending on the type of establishment you're looking for, but also signals the type of food you can expect from it, the size of the portions and the prices — all before you've even been handed the menu. Does the waiting room of your doctor's office increase your anxiety, or encourage you to let your mind wander to more pleasant thoughts? Does the wait seem interminable, however short it may be in reality, or are you surprised at how soon you're back out on the street, in spite of how far the hands on your watch have advanced? A lot of that has to do with the design of the space, whether we think about it or not.

When we think about the interiors of our homes, we often mistake decor for design. Strictly speaking, decor is what we do with the existing architecture, while design encompasses the structural integrity of the building. On the surface, the two disciplines look almost identical, but one goes beneath the surface. Out of sight, out of mind.

Few of us haven't altered the appearance of our residential interiors. It's usually the first thing you do when you move into a new house, especially an existing house that's new to

you but has already provided somebody else with years of familiarity. Furnishings — of course. Paint for the walls and carpets for the floors — goes without saying. If you're ambitious, the house might get new flooring or wall materials. Usually, that's enough to put your personal stamp on your home and make it comfortable. It's a prudent way to proceed when the ink is still wet on mortgage and the full value of the house has yet to be realized.

But lately, as Saskatoon real estate values rose (they may have dropped a couple of per cent in the past year, but they're still way better than just a few years ago), the value that residents have in existing homes exceeds the amount still owed on them. Our market now opens the door for considering the value of interior design. For existing homes, it creates opportunities for imaginative renovations and upgrades. For new homes, especially those still on the drawing board, it paves the way for innovation.

So, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the Design Council of Saskatchewan received a record number of entries — a majority of them for Saskatoon projects — for the Premier's Awards of Excellence in Design during this year's Design Week. It would be easy to dismiss the awards as a show of patting ourselves on the back, except that the judges represented a broad range of international expertise. If there's one thing the judges took home with them, it was their appreciation for the kind of new thinking that is taking place here.

In particular, our designers are gaining a reputation for leadership in LEED. That shouldn't come as any surprise. We are more dependent on energy and must adapt to a wider range of climate conditions than most other regions of the country. Our designers have a very global perspective. Although globalization can lead to homogenized, copy-cat implementation, we are heavily influenced by what's around us and the inspiration that our designers draw from our Saskatchewan roots, producing a style that we can all own.



"State-of-the-art" is a bandied-about phrase which more often than not reflects a high level of technology. But in the case of a kitchen, it can mean something so much more.

Photos: Courtesy Redl World Class Kitchens



When a kitchen is designed in such an integrated way, it doesn't even look like one.

"Typically when people think of 'state-of-the-art', they think of high-tech, sleek and contemporary. A space that has all the bells and whistles," says Lucienne Van Langen, a nine-year veteran designer for Redl World Class Kitchens. "But to me, 'state-of-the-art' is simply using the best materials and technology available today to make the kitchen the best it can be as a functioning space."

Whether it's a couple without children who uses a kitchen mainly to entertain, or a family who uses the space to run their hectic lives, Van Langen believes each individual's requirement for a 'state-of-the-art' kitchen is determined by the lifestyle they lead.

"Planning and organizing what you actually need out of the kitchen is really the first step," says Van Langen. "The old way of thinking in kitchen design was called the 'work triangle' where you basically just looked at your sink, fridge and stove."

"But nowadays, because kitchens are such multi-use spaces, you really have to look at it in terms of zones, and which one is used the most."

More thought needs to go into today's kitchen design process, to ensure that every need is adequately met. That means a cooking zone, a cleaning zone, a preparation and storage zone, an

entertainment zone, a media zone that can house a television, stereo or Internet access, possible office space, and charging stations for electronic gadgets.

"Once you've identified what you need," says Van Langen, "then you can start getting into all of the individual and wonderful gadgets that goes along with every single one of those zones."

There are many new and wonderful kitchen appliances and accessories to choose from, with no rules about the order in which you pick them.

"A lot of times, the order simply comes from finding one thing that you love and working from there for everything else. So if it's a tile for your floor that you absolutely love, then you can start with that and develop a palette around the flooring."

Van Langen thinks the most important element in a kitchen she designs is the custom cabinets created by Redl. They give her an opportunity to meet her client's individual needs in any size range and with any finish or colour they may be looking for.

"The sizes and the finishes are pretty well unlimited," says Van Langen. "You can do anything from solid wood to a high gloss polyester finish that looks just like the finish on a car."

But looks aside, what they're ultimately best for, says Van Langen is organization.

"One of the biggest things we're seeing is that people want to de-clutter and de-stress their lives. These cabinets allow me to create a kitchen where they all work to organize and easily fit housewares. By using drawers where once there were just cabinets, and by using their removable drawer divider systems, clients are then able to change that organization as their lives and needs change."

For example, corner drawers, instead of Lazy Susans, and fold-up cabinet doors offer full access for everything in the kitchen. Small appliances are removed from counters by placing them in dedicated drawers, in appliance garages, or in a walk-in pantry so they are not always seen. Not only will removing clutter off counters give a kitchen a more sleek appearance; it also allows the latest seamless-lined countertops to be viewed in their entirety.

CUSTOMIZED COUNTERTOPS

Showy and functional, long-lasting natural granite countertops have been recently popular. A new trend leans more towards solid surface man-made granite and quartz.

Carlo Triolo, owner of Beauty Craft, which manufactures these types of "solid



Appliances in a well-designed kitchen can be integrated right into the cabinetry.

surfaces", offers his clients a level of versatility and customization that allows them to have their countertops made in any shape, design and colour they wish, as well as to accessorize their countertops with custom borders, matching window trims, shelves and more. These customized solid surfaces are both food-safe and damage-resistant, and when 93% quartz is used in the mix, very natural.

"Solid surface manufactured quartz is probably the highest end product on the market right now," says Triolo. Available in a wide variety of colours and colour combinations, it's also a product that blends the best of both man-made and natural worlds.

"It has nice heavy natural stone properties like natural granite as well as solid surface properties of man-made granites, because 7% of the man-made quartz is resin."

Beauty Craft quartz has a non-porous surface and is easily repairable--scratches or cracks can easily be polished or wet-sanded, something, Triolo adds, not possible with 100% natural stone.

"The same with a laminate or arbourite," says Triolo. "If you damage it, it has to be replaced."

Stainless steel is another countertop material Van Langen says is gaining in popularity.

"We do a lot of stainless steel countertops, because they're easy to clean and antibacterial," says Van Langen. "They also give a kitchen that state-of-the-art look."

FOOL-PROOF FLOORS

In flooring, porcelain tile is still extremely popular in kitchens for its durability, and homeowners are combating any coldness issues with heat mats and in-floor heating. However, the newly reinvented luxury vinyl tile (LVT), says Mike Lee, of First Choice Flooring, is starting to be the new tile of choice.

Available now as individual pieces that are glued down separately with their own grouting system, LVT can give a floor a tile-like look while still retaining all of the benefits of vinyl.

"LVT looks similar to porcelain tile visually, but will be much warmer and softer to walk on, and doesn't require a sub floor," says Lee. "And with the wood planks now available in LVT's, you can combine the wood and ceramic tile patterns together to make unique one-of-a-kind patterns."

Flooring today is also seeing a resurgence in linoleum.

"They've changed the backing from paper to fiberglass," says Lee. This leaves linoleum-lined kitchen floors softer to walk on and less susceptible to moisture which can lead to mould.

GOING GREEN

Keeping in that environmental line, new state-of-the-art kitchens are also incorporating recycling centres, with simple and easy sorting and custom pullouts so that individual containers can be taken directly to the curb.

A respect for the environment can be furthered by incorporating Energy Star appliances (integrated right into the look of the kitchen cabinetry with custom panels), low-flow dishwashers and faucet fixtures, as well as the latest line of LED lighting options.

LIGHTING EFFECTS

"Lighting is a huge part of a state-of-the-art kitchen," says Van Langen. "There are so many different types and it can really make or break a kitchen design if you accent the right things or even the wrong things."

And it's not just your run-of-the-mill singular ceiling lighting that Van Langen refers to.

"You can do under-cabinet lighting, above-cabinet accent lighting, you can even do lighting inside cabinets and drawers that comes on when opened just like your fridge light does," says Van Langen. "And for people with mobility issues, or those who just want something really cool you can incorporate it all into touch lighting from a panel or integrate your lighting into a whole kitchen automated system."

KITCHEN TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS

All the rage for those who really like the high-tech gadgetry, Van Langen says such systems can be used to control not only lighting, but temperature, stereos, television or computers that reside right in the kitchen.

"With an integrated screen you can have Internet access in the kitchen that will allow you to pick up a recipe on line, watch



Creative lighting adds a designer touch in this contemporary-style kitchen.

the news or even tap into a security feed that checks in on your kids when they are in another room.”

By utilizing such a system, adds Van Langen, you also open up a world of new high-tech possibilities. You can turn on the oven to start supper from the convenience of your office or laptop. You can also take advantage of some of the latest technologically-advanced appliances in existence today. For example, there is a fridge that will scan what's inside, create a grocery list from what is missing, send it straight to your kitchen's system, which then can forward it to your mobile phone.

Even for those less inclined to go the high-tech route, the bottom line for making a kitchen achieve state-of-the-art status revolves around flow. You'll achieve a kitchen that's contemporary and efficient as they come by designating your zones, and implementing the tools, appliances and accessories that work the best to make your life easier and stress-free.

GAIL JANSEN

Information

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Redl World Class Kitchens Really is a World-Class Business

“Because their kitchens are completely custom, Redl can literally create anything,” says Lucienne Van Langen, kitchen designer with Redl World Class Kitchens.

This is important, she explains, when trying to incorporate new technology or other state-of-the art amenities into this important room in the house.

Formed in 1987 when owner Gerald Redl chose to return to his hometown of Saskatoon to open his own cabinet manufacturing facility, Redl today has become one of the leading manufacturers of high-end custom cabinetry, not just here in Saskatoon...but throughout the world.

After recruiting sister Lynn to help him with his new venture, Redl first started his business in a cramped facility on the family's acreage with only the skills and the knowledge he had learned through nearly a decade of working in the industry in Australia and B.C., and the lessons in customer service he learned from his father, Elmer. Soon, however, Redl began to earn a reputation for both craftsmanship and client relations.

Today, those cramped facilities have transformed into a 25,000 sq.ft. high-end manufacturing facility, and the company's dedication to service has netted a client list that spans the globe. The term “world-class” at Redl is more than just a name or term; it's a real dimension of their business.

Winning four Georgie awards (a B.C.-based Canadian Home Builders' Association award given for excellence in new homes and renovations), and a major award for kitchens in England, as well as making sales across Canada and the U.S., including the elegant Wynn Villa Hotel in Las Vegas, Redl has now expanded even further into the Caribbean.

Still, the company has never forgotten its Saskatchewan roots, and has always continued to offer the same world-class product and service right here at home.

GAIL JANSEN



THE INNER TRACK ON SASKATOON INTERIOR STYLE

PROFESSIONAL PANEL

It is interesting to see how perceptions of Saskatoon interior décor and design both among the professional practitioners and home owners have evolved. We asked four interesting city interior designers and decorators to share their observations on what interior enhancements clients are undertaking and why. We also wanted them to share their own thoughts on such issues as design and décor trends and influences as personal preferences and philosophies. What emerges are responses that in some cases are markedly different and in others, quite consensual.

PARTICIPANTS



Chantelle Butterfield is the owner of Funktional Space, a Saskatoon-based interior decorating business. Chantelle has worked with colour for over 15 years, taking courses in Boston, Calgary, Edmonton and SIAST with continued education on different design styles, including traditional, contemporary and modern. Chantelle was a professional kitchen designer for over five years before starting her own business three years ago with the main philosophy that everyone's space is unique, personal and should be both attractive and functional.

*Contact: Funktional Space Interior Decorating
www.funktionalspace.com or 306.227.3008*



Happy Grove received his bachelor's degree from the University of Calgary and has studied interior design at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, and Mount Royal University in Calgary, where he also taught the subject. Owner and manager of a design firm since 1992, Grove moved to Saskatoon six years ago. Most recently Happy and partner Adrian Stimson have been renovating an old store front on 20th Street to be their home, Happy's office, and Adrian's art studio.

Contact: Happylivingspace Interior Design Ltd., 306.220.2289



Norinne A. Moore Norinne A. Moore attended the University of Manitoba where she earned a bachelor of interior design degree and Red River Community College where she studied business administration. She opened her own design firm shortly thereafter. Since relocating her firm to Saskatchewan, her project list includes hospitals, libraries, schools and churches in addition to teaching design & marketing/merchandising consulting. Her main focus is a balance between corporate design and residential design. She is a registered member of the Interior Design Association of Saskatchewan & Interior Designers of Canada.

Contact: Norinne Keys Interior Design Ltd., 306.665.8262.



Rebecca Stewart is currently employed with Stantec Architecture in Saskatoon. She has been gaining experience in interior design working on both small and large commercial renovations, as well as new construction. As an interior design technologist, she has currently been working towards building on her education and experience to become both LEED accredited as well as a registered interior designer. Her interest and passion to learn continues to enhance and influence her knowledge of people, products and good design.

Contact: Stantec Architecture & Interior Design, 306.667.2400

What new trends in Saskatoon residential interior design / decor are you noticing right now?

Butterfield: I'm finding people are doing facelifts, using what they love and making their space more functional for themselves and their families, whether it's a large or small home. Unlike other generations in the past that may have only done one large renovation in the time they lived in the home, most clients today don't want to be caught in an era, so they do smaller scale revamps. They change a room every few years so it's not as hard on the budget or disruptive to the family. Others will change the paint, furniture and a few accessories every year or two, to keep up with the times, not the neighbours.

Grove: Saskatoon boasts some very exciting design fashion, although certainly there is much room to grow if we are inspired to be leaders in this area. Green design is the most exciting 'trend' we are seeing, and is universal in nature. When it comes to the look and feel of our homes, this is a very personal choice. I always encourage my clients to develop their own statement or concept, thus avoiding designing specific spaces to current trends. With this in mind, I do not try to sell clients on the newest trends.

Moore: I have had numerous requests for Craftsman Style detailing. In general, there is more interest in using mouldings to enhance a space; crown mouldings at ceilings, wider casings and higher baseboards, architraves over windows and doors or corner blocks.

Stewart: Saskatoon has recently seen a huge growth in residential development. However, given the cost of new construction, some people are putting more money into customizing their existing spaces. Given the high rate of return on their investments, if they bought prior to the past two years, renovators are looking for real

products like stone, granite, marble; environmentally friendly materials such as Benjamin Moore's Aura Paint with no VOCs (volatile organic compounds); and all things natural, sustainable and energy efficient as possible. There's a strong "green" initiative prevalent throughout the design industry in general.

How would you typify current interior Saskatoon style and what are the influences?

Butterfield: Many clients are unsatisfied with the way their home is currently and want to make it a little more contemporary. I believe the main influences behind that desire are travel, internet, the great selection of stores we have in Saskatoon, as well as all knowledge and inspiration we have at our finger tips with magazines and design shows on television.

Grove: I do not see a pervasive strong individual look or style developing within the custom home/renovation sector here in Saskatoon. Quite the opposite, as you drive around and see homes that have been custom built or renovated you see a diverse collection of styles and tastes. I do not believe there is a strong specific 'Saskatoon Style'. However, there are strong influences that make the clients' chosen style 'fit' well with this geographical location. Positive Influences: a keen interest in the home space, financial willingness, education, travel, and the environment in which we live. Negative Influences: Builders with profit as their main objective, cheap decisions as to materials and finishes. Lack of inspired guidelines from our city planners.

Moore: Our economy in Saskatchewan is booming so the big push is to upgrade both in function and materials. Walls are not sacred and redefined space is a frequent request. When a wood finish is desired, there is more consideration for species other than the old standard

of oak. There is less carpet and more hard surface flooring; tile, hardwood. Clients are using higher quality finishes; granite counters and stainless steel appliances.

Stewart: As interior designers, we design according to a concept that integrates the wants, needs and desires of the client, in keeping with the functional needs of the space. Therefore, each space has a style and character of its own. With the world getting smaller every day, global influences are prevalent, yet the reality of where we live plays a huge role on the style we have grown to know as home. That being said, residential style in Saskatoon is leaning towards clean modern lines in some areas, and a rejuvenation of classical details in others, with a tendency to be on the conservative side.

Which rooms are people most inclined to design and decorate in their homes?

Butterfield: Most people are working on making the most of their space with a new kitchen, furniture, paint, flooring, lighting, appliances and accessories. Whether it is all at once or in stages, I find one of the most rewarding parts of my career is to help clients source items for their projects, by going shopping with or for them so they feel confident in their decisions. Most can't believe how easy and fast it really can be.

Grove: For the most part clients will hire a designer to work on the more public spaces in their homes. Within this I am seeing a tendency to redesigning the kitchen as most are original to the home, and this is an area where newer cabinetry will increase storage, and the new technology in appliances makes a noticeable difference.

Moore: I get more requests for kitchen redesign than any other room in a home. That inevitably leads to refinishing other spaces. The second is bathrooms.

Stewart: Because they are still the greatest return on your investments, kitchens and baths are still most likely to be the spaces that clients re-design and have renovated first. With more and more open-concept plans, living rooms have more recently become included as a kitchen/living, or loft-style space.

What are your favourite rooms to enhance?

Butterfield: The public ones, the ones you can see from the front door, the foyer, mud room, dining room, kitchen, living and or family room. I find clients feel more house pride when guests arrive, even if they haven't invited the guest in to stay, if what they can see from the front door leaves them wanting more. We've all heard first impressions count!

Grove: This is a challenging question, as I love to do design, and will apply this love to any space given the opportunity. With this said, my favorite space to design is the powder room. It may be one of the smallest spaces in a home, yet it is an opportunity to do something amazing. Within this room the 'concept' of the design (the rationale, the guidelines, the intention of the space) can be fully implemented. This is a space where family and guests retreat, and within which delight may be inspired. Due to the smaller size of the room, finer finishes may be indulged. After that, I love designing kitchens. They have always been the heart of the home for me.

Moore: Kitchens, family rooms, bathrooms. Kitchen design is very satisfying because good design improves the function. I like designing family rooms because I particularly enjoy the cabinet design and the millwork detailing involved in fireplace/bookcase walls. A great built-in wall creates a focal point, storage to reduce clutter and an organized space for electronic equipment.

Bathrooms are a favourite to design because with all the great selections we now have for plumbing fixtures, faucets and lighting, they become a personal spa.

Stewart: Again as interior designers, we take every space as a challenge to improve it to its maximum potential. Every room can become a great space, when properly designed! Due to both return on investment and as a place for common household gathering, the kitchen is a very fascinating space to improve for function, usability, and durability as well as creativity... creating a natural hub for all to enjoy.

Which rooms yield the biggest return in the home when it is restyled?

Butterfield: As a kitchen designer, I would definitely say kitchens and bathrooms. A recent study reported 80% of monetary returns were gained in kitchen and bathrooms. I find that we as home owners, the ones paying the mortgage, leave our bedrooms until last. When everything else is done, it's then that we feel we can spend time, money or energy on our retreat. For thousands less than a kitchen makeover, we could wake up to the splendour of a beautiful master bedroom. We spend so much time there; I think that's a big yield. Don't get me wrong, I love a spectacular kitchen and a good cup of coffee in the morning.

Grove: The types of projects that yield the greatest return are those that approach the home as a whole, and where we can infuse the design concept throughout. This cohesive application makes for a unified space. There is nothing more jarring than seeing a freshly-renovated space beside an original space as the new makes the old look older and more tired. For the client I'd say that most often, it is the kitchen that yields the highest return. This is the room that usually has the most activity in it. New cabinets, new appliances and new finishes definitely contribute to the functionality and the client's appreciation and sense of value for the money.

Moore: The kitchen yields the biggest return, particularly if it was not planned well in the first place. Kitchen renovations can affect the traffic flow of a home. Some older houses have as many as three doorways into the kitchen, creating cross-traffic through the work space and fragmenting the counter space.

Stewart: Again, as the kitchen and bathroom are the spaces that have the highest impact, these are most likely the spaces to have money thrown at it first. Once these spaces have been re-designed, the domino effect most often takes place, putting the entry and living areas next on the list.

What are your favourite colours, finishes, materials and accents to work with?

Butterfield: First would be good quality bones, in a colour and finish that will stand the test of time, and then layer those bones with the newest funky, trendy colours. A great example would be to take a beautiful leather couch and accessorize it with plenty of pillows to coordinate with your Christmas tree decorations. Sorry to mention it, but it's true; it's fast approaching! In the New Year, take another set of pillows in the latest spring colours, add a few more accessories like candles and vases in the same colour and you have a new space for very little money or effort. Then, when the trend has faded you can replace your accessories with whatever is hot, that season. Secondly would be art work; one can never have enough!

Grove: I like colours that are inspired from the local natural environment. Think of the different palates of spring, autumn, summer and winter in Saskatoon. Within each season there are many, many options for colour combinations and applications. My favourite finishes and materials are those that exhibit quality and longevity, and those which the client loves. With so many options now, this allows for very individual

choices, leading to very distinct interiors. Regarding favourite accents, I absolutely love to work with those that have personal meaning for the client. If you have a beloved art collection, we'll try to create focal points that accentuate the collection. If you don't have these items, we'll go together and collect them.

Moore: I prefer cool colours over warm tones. My all-time favourite colour is purple and I don't do beige at all. Lighting is a fantastic design tool. Almost all of my design projects include upgrading the lighting both in quantity and quality. Most homes already have a reasonable amount of general lighting but the concept of high lighting has been underused or overlooked. Recessed pot lights are inexpensive and do not date. I use line voltage halogen bulbs for improved colour rendition and brightness.

Stewart: Especially in such a growing time, not only in development, but also technology, the field of interior design is heavily saturated with an overwhelming variety of new products on a daily basis. To create and design with new and innovative products whose characteristics are often unique, the applications are endless and the possibilities are always exciting. And of course, to "wow" a client with something they didn't realize was possible, is the best reward.

Do you have a few design styles you like to work with?

Butterfield: My personal favourite styles would be the clean lines of the contemporary, art deco, mission or prairie style. But in the end, it's all about what the client likes because, I don't get to live in the places I decorate, but I do hope to come back! William Morris once wrote, "Have nothing in your homes that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." I try to live by that motto.

Grove: I love working with all styles. Limiting oneself to a particular style may result in more and more refined executions of the style, but this doesn't challenge the mind to explore and expand. I have often said to clients and students alike that it is best to be a leader, not a follower. This requires trying new things. For example in the past few years I've worked on designs that may be classified as: neo-classical, prairie modern, mid-century modern, traditional, modern.

Moore: My design style is classic rather than trend-driven. While trends change, good design doesn't go out of style. I love colour and lots of it, rich colours in family rooms and bathrooms, lighter colours in hallways and bedrooms.

Stewart: Although my preference may be clean contemporary lines with a punch of high contrast and a minimal use of pattern, this is not always the ideal option for the project at hand. This being said, each and every well designed project will, without a doubt, provide a fresh perspective and appreciation for diverse interior design style.

What is the difference between an interior designer and interior decorator?

Butterfield: A designer is an interior architect; they perform the same tasks an architect does, except on the inside. An interior decorator is concerned about surface decoration, paint, lighting, accessories, fabrics, furnishings. Adorning the space with appropriate, attractive, functional, fashionable items, with the main objective of how it looks!

Grove: Generally speaking, interior design is practiced by interior designers, architects, space planners, and decorators. Each has a particular viewpoint and level of expertise. Each viewpoint along with its merit and expertise will be debated in schools,

professions, and the professional societies associated. The debates promote self evaluation and, hopefully the advancement of the field of interior design. The most important things for homeowners to explore are the qualifications of the design professional they are considering, and to know that this person is part of a team. Trust is the most important ingredient in this relationship. With trust, and the appropriate combination of professional talent, the project will succeed.

Moore: A decorator tells you what to put on the walls. A designer tells you where to put the walls, and then what to put on the walls. Space planning is the key. If a wall is in the wrong place, even gold won't save it.

Stewart: According to Interior Designers of Canada (IDC), "Interior design is a multi-faceted profession in which creative and technical solutions are applied within a structure to achieve a built interior environment. These solutions are functional, enhance the quality of life and culture of the occupants, and are aesthetically attractive. Designs are created in response to and coordinated with the building shell, and acknowledge the physical location and social context of the project. Designs must adhere to code and regulatory requirements, and encourage the principles of environmental sustainability. The interior design process follows a systematic and coordinated methodology, including research, analysis and integration of knowledge into the creative process, whereby the needs and resources of the client are satisfied to produce an interior space that fulfills the project goals."

Interior decorators, on the other hand, although there is some very talented work out there, have varied education, and there is no third-party measure of diverse interior design style.

TRANSFORMING THE OLD INTO NEW:

INTERIOR RE-DO ADDS LIGHT, FLOW AND SPACE



'70s family room, re-designed for a comfortable, contemporary look and backyard views. The unique, textured wall surrounding the fireplace is created with Opalia wall covering by Marburg. Artwork: "Winter Vision" by Klee Rogaers, "Saskatchewan Landscape" by Hugo Alvarado.

Photos by Darrell Noakes

It's a tough decision, torn between the familiar and the new. Bill and Vivian Orban knew that their College Park East home wasn't meeting their needs the way it had when they built the 2381-square-foot, five bedroom, split-level in 1975. The question was whether to move to some place newer or work with what they had.



The sunken living room feels so much larger with dividing walls removed, allowing people and light to flow easily through the house. Artwork: "Bison Heart XXIV, XXV", white oil and graphite paintings by Adrian Stimson, Saskatoon (either side of fireplace); paintings by Hugo Alvarado, Saskatoon.

"We were at a point of no return," Vivian recalls. "The house was that old. It was going. The windows were leaking. [It was] either sell it, or could we do something with it?"

"It wasn't energy-efficient at all," adds Bill.

The couple looked at condominium developments, other neighbourhoods, downsizing and building new, but something was lacking from all those options.

They decided to stay. The neighbourhood was important to them.

"We've got 30-foot trees here," Bill notes, pointing out how barren newer neighbourhoods felt in comparison. Plus, they had built the house themselves, as did many of their neighbours.

"We built the houses together," Bill says. "They're still here. Their grandkids come back. Our grandkids come back. It was the neighbourhood that we really liked, the maturity of the neighbourhood. It's just a delight."

The location is ideal, and they didn't want to change that. Their children and grandchildren live nearby. There are two

elementary schools and a high school within walking distance. Downtown is just five minutes away.

"This is the house where our children grew up," Bill says.

That's when the Orbans turned to Happy Grove. Bill, a developer of corporate leaseholds and custom homes for corporate clients, had met Grove while working on another project. He liked Grove's design sense, and more importantly, the good working relationships he nurtured with the owners and the tradespeople.

The Orbans wondered-- could Grove turn this home around?

"I had a list of everything I hated about the house and the decision would be made if we could do everything to correct it; [then we would stay]," Vivian explains. "We're not formal people. I don't want a formal living room. I want it opened up. I want a foyer. I want people to come in and not see us eating at the table. I want a big kitchen."

Vivian challenged Grove: "Take all the formal out of the house. When you come in, I want you to feel welcome to put your feet up."

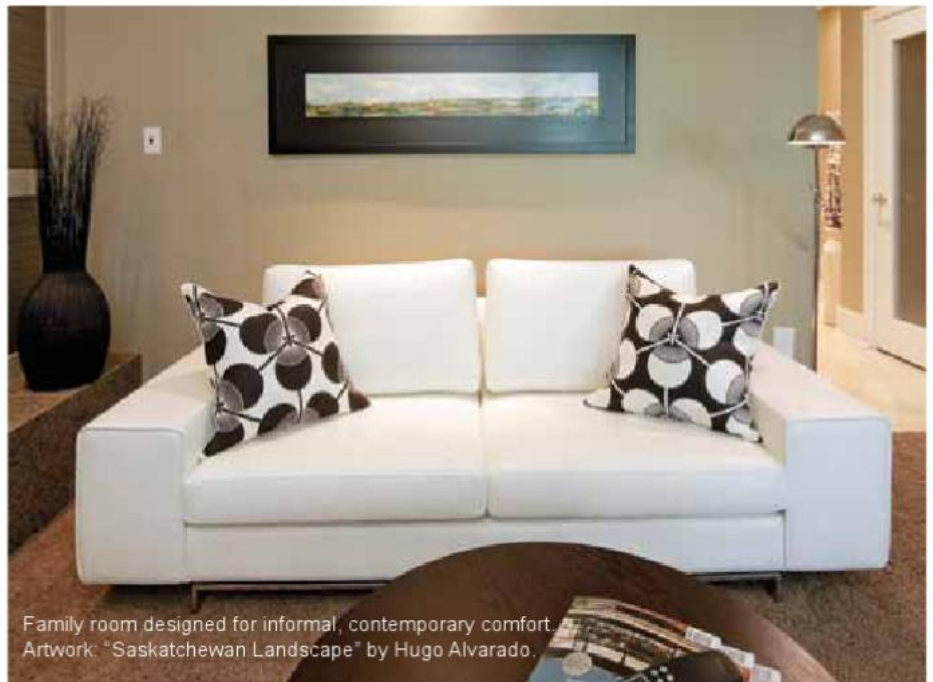
It was a challenge that Grove could warm up to.

"The first thing we always do is get the engineering report," Grove explains. "That opened up so many possibilities."

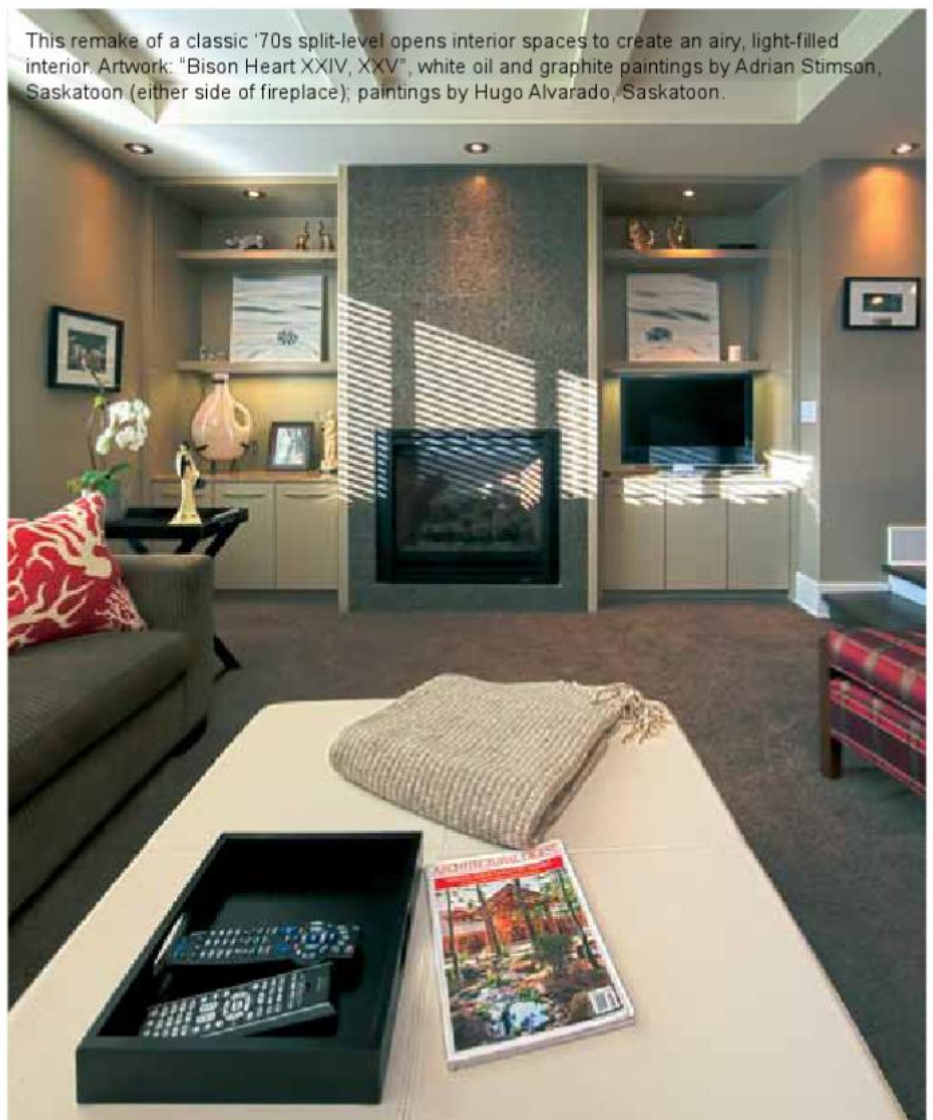
The engineering report showed that the house was constructed using full-span roof trusses, with no supporting walls. It was unusual for 1970s construction, but a lucky break for the renovation.

It allowed them to open up the interior space, tearing out walls that separated the kitchen, dining room and sunken living room. But that meant finding creative ways to merge the combination of eight and nine foot ceilings without having them look out of place. Grove designed a latticework of dropped bulkheads that not only brought the ceilings together in a unified style, but also served as conduits for electrical and natural gas services without disturbing insulation and vapour barrier layers above.

Grove saw other possibilities as well. A dividing wall between the kitchen and sunken family room could be turned into a built-in buffet. The entry foyer could be given more space, the upstairs staircase re-routed, and a niche added at the base of the stairs, just off the kitchen.



Family room designed for informal, contemporary comfort. Artwork: "Saskatchewan Landscape" by Hugo Alvarado.



This remake of a classic '70s split-level opens interior spaces to create an airy, light-filled interior. Artwork: "Bison Heart XXIV, XXV", white oil and graphite paintings by Adrian Stimson, Saskatoon (either side of fireplace); paintings by Hugo Alvarado, Saskatoon.

The open design creates an informal atmosphere and lets natural light penetrate throughout the interior.



"I'm always looking for 'flow,'" Grove says. "I avoid dead ends. You can see there are many places where you can go around. There are circular flow regimes that work."

"The grandchildren are a testament to that," Bill adds. "When they chase each other around, they've got three different tracks that they can run around. The flow works great!"

The re-design opened sight lines, too, notes Grove.

"It's the pattern language," he says. "It's the 'space beyond.' When we can see into the space beyond, it's a spacial relationship that humans like."

Vivian explains it another way. "The house is 'cheery,'" she says.

Much of that cheery atmosphere comes from the way natural light enters the house. Larger windows in front, combined with the openness of the interior let daylight flow into all the spaces. All the interior doors are solid core with frosted glass inserts, maintaining privacy without interrupting the light.

The exterior also got a make-over. They removed the old wood siding, added two inches of Atlas Stucco-Shield rigid foam insulation and finished the walls with new stucco. They put back the exterior brick taken from the front of the house, staining it to match the stucco and give the house a fresh, modern appearance.

Low-E, triple-glazed windows further minimize heat loss, and combined with the new high-efficiency furnace, keep the house cozy.

In all, the work took four months, completed by late 2006. The end result is an interior that completely redefines an older home.

DARRELL NOAKES

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The powder room brings elegance and grace. Located opposite the laundry room and next to the family room. Artwork: painting by Hugo Alvarado.



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DÉCOR

Paint Predictions for 2010:

Light, dark shades
of new hues,
cool blues and
shots of colour

Blue may be the key shade influencing interior paint colour trends for 2010.

"The upcoming new season is all about blues – a transition from the greens we've been seeing so much of the past couple of years," predicts Johanna McLellan, brand communications manager for 94-year-old Canadian PARA Paints. "A deep jewel tone, cool blue, spa influenced and an exciting electric blue to bring sparkle and shine."

Black ("the new black") is also back, according to McLellan. "The only difference-- this year's black has a look of luxury allowing it to work with more sophisticated and natural looks."

Blue and black are just two of PARA's predictions for next year's interiors. Three of their colour palettes for 2010 encompass the best of the trends as well as appealing to a wide variety of contemporary tastes.

"Red carpet moment" is a sophisticated, muted collection that incorporates a soft black with a warm red, a bluish grey, a tan and a pleasant mid-green. "A touch of luxe"



Photo: Courtesy PARA Paints

The sophisticated new 2010 hues from PARA Paints are available at Blended Jive.

is a little bolder, using black with orange, khaki, an almost turquoise-blue and a creamy white. "Make a statement," by contrast is almost festive--a slate grey neutral underlies a palette of pale blue, vivid yellow, raspberry red and lavender.

It is truly difficult to accurately describe these shades unless you see them for

yourself. PARA tries by giving them creative names. For example "walkin' n the rain" is the name of the soft black in the first collection. "Simmering pots" describes the khaki hue in "a touch of luxe." My favourite is "change purse," aptly capturing the lavender colour in the "make a statement" collection.

A Knowledgeable Paint Pair

The fashionable PARA interior paint colours are available exclusively at Blended Jive Paint & Décor Inc., a new paint boutique in Saskatoon run by Brandy O'Brien and Joline Throssell that's been open a little over six months. "It is not your typical paint store as it also features home décor accessories such-

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brands as Umbra, Torre & Tagus, Tag and so on," they say. "We also bring in a few talented local artists' pieces; canvas art and metal art."

With 13 years of combined experience in the paint industry, O'Brien and Throssell were approached to become a PARA Paints dealer for Saskatoon and own their own business. "From there, we did our business plan, bringing a twist to the retail paint industry by adding home décor and a trendier feel. This has brought us to our dream career," say the partners.

Both met while working at General Paint, which bought out PARA and originally approached the pair to open their store. Both have experience not only with paint, but also colour consulting and interior décor.

General trends in paint are one thing. But what do local homeowners prefer? According to O'Brien and Throssell, neutrals are popular with not just Saskatonians, but Canadians across the country.

That being said, consumers are taking changes with colour. "Saskatoon homeowners tend to use a lighter shade of a hue as a main colour and introduce a darker shade in another area of the home. Some homeowners will spice things up in a room by featuring a wall with a dramatic colour, bringing excitement."

Neutrals, they say, include black, brown (mud and khaki tinges) and gray which comes with tinges of charcoal, green and beige.

"Red is quite popular in the design community for a feature wall, doors or furni-

ture pieces," they add.

Various yellows, purples and blues are popular as well. Despite what's popular, O'Brien and Throssell say it's hard to recommend colours because each shade has a different feel for each individual.

"We are strong believers in the consumer doing what they want," the pair say. "They may want guidance helping them to choose complimentary colours but if the consumer wants a lime green feature wall we want them to be able to do that." Choosing a paint colour for your space will also depend on whether your personality "screams warm or cool colours." Warm colours include yellow, orange, red, and the colours near them on the colour wheel. "Warm colours are called the advancing colours; they can make you feel happy, energetic and full of excitement."

"Cool colours include blue, green, violet, and the colours near them on the colour wheel. "Cool colours are called the receding colours; they can make you feel calm and relaxed."

Choosing interior colours also depend on the shades of lighting, flooring, cabinets, counter tops, fabrics and furnishings in the home.

"For many consumers, selecting colours for their home can be an overwhelming task. We can assist in making your experience pleasurable. We encourage consumers to take their favourite pair of 'pumps' or their favourite 'sweater' and throw it on the wall. Consumers gravitate towards a certain colour for a reason."

Each of the two have their own favourite paint shades. For example, Joline prefers

depth in colours but staying within the same family with limited feature walls, keeping it simple and clean, but adding accent colours with art and décor accessories. She likes a warmer undertone for her walls complimenting her floor colour but accented with black and one other colour to throw a splash into the space," says O'Brien.

O'Brien, on the other hand, prefers a more dramatic colour scheme. She says she tends to use two "cooler" main colours to pull tones out in her flooring but then places punchy colours on several accent walls in various rooms throughout the house, "such as a red wall to get an energetic feel, or a purple wall to give the dignity of a royalty feel."

As for finishes, "it really depends on what the consumer is looking to do," note Throssell and O'Brien. The pair say the trend for many years was eggshell, "however that being said, we're seeing more and more consumers moving towards a more flat finish." They point out that PARA Paints has a fabulous

product that is a "flat which performs as an eggshell." The product is washable, durable and suitable for high traffic areas with children.

Many of the PARA paints sub brands meet or exceed government standards for low VOC. "Obviously any oil products are not eco-friendly, but these will be phased out over the next few years throughout the entire industry," say the partners. "For low VOC product, PARA's latex finishes in the Ultra, Premium and even our Professional Precision sub brands meet these requirements. For a no-VOC product, PARA will be launching Essence this coming January. The product contains no VOC and is available in PARA entire colour system."

DONA STURMANIS

Information

Blended Jive Paint and Décor Inc.
32210 Millar Avenue,
Saskatoon
306.384.5483
www.blendedjive.ca

PARA Paints
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SPOTLIGHT

Traditional Meets Contemporary: Wallpaper is an Interior Solution with 'Wow'

Don't underestimate the drama of wallpaper, says Fresco Interiors owner and principal designer Charlene Schumacher.

Schumacher didn't have wallpaper in mind when she first set out to complete the interior of this Ehrenburg show home in Stonebridge.

"I wasn't looking at wallpaper," she says. "It just basically came into place when I was looking for something to really give it a 'pop'. I was looking for something new."

"More and more, Saskatchewan home owners lean towards a 'transitional' style," she explains. "What that means is they love the modern, but they want it softened a bit. What I did was find the right combination of contemporary sleekness with a little bit of traditional warmth."

"I wanted to give it a 'wow' factor," she continues. "That's where it all stemmed from. You'll notice high contrasts in that house. It is monochromatic, in that everything is based on browns and greys, but it's the high



Photo: Courtesy Kira Nelson Photography, All Rights Reserved 2009

Lighter tones highlight the feature wall in the master bedroom. "At one time, people used to cover all four walls in wallpaper. Now, you use it just like you would a feature wall." Artwork: "Freeflow" by Charlene Schumacher.

contrast of the ivory sofa against the black shears and the dark wallpaper that gives that high contrast. If, let's say, all of the rooms were done with dark wallpaper and dark walls, it would start to close in on you."

Schumacher finds that modern wallpaper designs provide perfect inspiration for unifying older and newer styles. Traditional wallpapers incorporated small patterns. Modern versions of these wallpapers may be in-

spired by the same patterns, but contemporary scale brings them up to date and breathes new life into them.

"When I talk about wallpaper, though, the wallpapers that I'm really suggesting are the modern versions, not the tiny little paisleys (of old)," she says. "What makes them modern is the scale. They're really large patterns. You'll notice the wallpaper that I chose in the living room is quite traditional in style, yet when you

do an over-scaled version of it, that's what makes it more contemporary. That large scale gives it that 'pop', so it just looks that much more dramatic."

Wallpaper works exceptionally well with modern design because the furnishings are generally clean lined, she adds.

Schumacher's background included fashion design before interiors, and she is also an artist. That blend of experience undoubtedly

influences the way she approaches home décor.

"Every interior designer has their own way of looking at a room and, a lot of times, mine starts with print. Whatever holds the print — whether it's the fabric, whether it's the drapery, whether it's top cushions, artwork — whatever the print is, that's what I use as my inspiration. In this space, I developed two of the artwork pieces because I wanted something very specific."

After defining the patterns for the walls, Schumacher turned to the furnishings. She sources many of her furnishings from Toronto and Las Vegas, as well as local Saskatoon stores.

"You can never have enough sources," she says.

Everything was chosen to contrast against the walls, to give the interior that 'pop' that she was looking for.

In this case, it was mainly ivories in the furnishings selected to play against the grays and browns of the wall coverings. The artwork was similarly chosen — or created — to work with the scale of the patterns. The result is deliberately monochromatic, yet it gives the house a fresh, contemporary look.

"Every home is so completely different," Schumacher says. "It really depends on the home owner — what they love, their style preferences. The house comes alive based on one particular inspiration. It might be a particular piece of artwork that they have by their favourite artist. So, colours will be drawn out of the artwork, and that will become your flooring; other colours will become your furnishings."



Photo: Courtesy Kira Nelson Photography, All Rights Reserved 2009

The pattern used in the feature wall of the living room is carried over from the entry foyer. The artwork in the foyer was specially ordered in. Living room art (right background): "Asia" by Charlene Schumacher.

With every room it starts with some kind of an inspiration."

At one time, most of Schumacher's work was with residential clients, but the now the scales have tipped toward commercial work for local home builders, including Ehrenburg Homes, Riverbend Developments and TK Homes.

"Usually we're starting right from a blueprint and helping to decide the flooring, the counter tops, all the surfaces, as well as the de-

sign of the kitchen, basically every aspect of the house," she says. "It makes it so much easier to get involved at that level than it does to jump in when all the surfaces have been decided."

DARRELL NOAKES

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GREEN



Photo: Courtesy Brentwood Classics Inc.

This Brentwood couch is not only stylish, but sustainable.

Decorate with Green: Easy on the Eyes, Earth-Friendly

People looking to decorate their homes with natural and eco-friendly products have more choices readily available to them, and as the demand continues to grow, so, too, does the list of available items.

At Charter House Interiors, they've been carrying upholstered furniture made by Toronto-based company Brentwood Classics, for the past three years. Comprised of eco-friendly soy-based foam, as opposed

to petroleum-based foam, each Brentwood piece also uses water-based glue in all of their frames, and soon hopes to incorporate even more eco-friendly solutions for all of their upholstery covers.

"They're now working on mixtures for their fabrics that will allow the fabric to ultimately return to Mother Nature," says Jenny Lucky of Charter House, whose showroom boasts three sets of Brentwood's product plus a number of occasional chairs, and additional eco-friendly summer-oriented outdoor furniture.

Other local retailers have also started to carry eco-

friendly furniture and décor pieces, including The Better Good Store, whose business philosophy revolves around eco-friendly sustainable products.

"One of the more significant home items we carry," says owner Corey Neufeld, "is a Canadian-made mattress made from a natural rubber foam, tapped straight from a rubber tree.

"Because it's a dust mite resistant material, it allows them to avoid spraying pesticides on the mattresses, and because they are also wrapped in wool, which is naturally flame-resistant, they can also avoid spraying flame retardants on both the

mattresses and the pillows."

Instead of the more common polyester wrap, each of these mattresses are wrapped in natural 100% unbleached cotton, a certified organic product, and comes not only in regular mattress sizes but crib sizes as well.

There are many new environmentally-friendly products on the market to improve your home, but they do come at higher-than-usual price point--soy-based paints like those carried by C.T. Décor; Benjamin Moore's Aura line of paint (which carries with it both Green Guard and LEED certifications); eco-friendly

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flooring from Braid Flooring or Western Carpet One, or one of many lines of warm and natural LED energy-efficient lighting systems carried by Richardson Lighting.

"Generally," says Christian Braid of Braid Flooring, "If someone is looking to an eco-friendly product, they'll find themselves looking at a higher-end product, which usually comes with a higher price tag. Though, no higher than any non-environmental high-end product.

"But the good thing, about that," adds Braid, "is that by doing so, it's going to last a very long time, and not be something, that in the case of flooring, they'll have to rip up in just a few years, and send to a landfill."

Being green in your décor choices may not even necessarily involve products made from natural substances. It may be as simple as finding a company that has committed (and has been certified) as "green" in that they recycle all of their materials or have hybrid vehicles to transport them. They may even simply have an environmental offsetting agreement in place to

restore the renewable resources they utilize, ensuring that your level of green consciousness is met in a variety of ways.

Manufacturers and retailers around the globe are realizing that the demand for eco-friendly products is growing, and are responding to that need with new and innovative products. In other words, people's environmental values are better reflected in every aspect of their home décor.

GAIL JANSEN

Information

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331 1st Ave North,
Saskatoon
306.653.4634

www.charterhouseinteriors.com

The Better Good Store Inc.

1A 640 Broadway Avenue,
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306.242.4663

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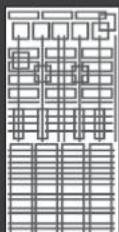
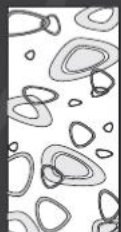
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STYLE

Have a Hearth: Make a Fireplace the Focus

The hearth was once the functional heart of the home. It was a less-than-efficient source of heat that came with its charm—but also dirt, soot, smoke, wood chopping, chimney cleaning, and hauling ash. Now the modern fireplace is reclaiming its place. Developments in technology and design have renewed the reasons for keeping the home fires burning.

“The choice of fireplace is such a personal preference,” says Leah, showroom consultant with Gregg’s Plumbing and Heating. “Mantle, no mantle, glass, granite. Newer trends see clear or coloured glass beads, a single torch flame or rock instead of log sets. You still want it to look like a natural fire; there’s something very relaxing about glowing embers.”

While the fireplace isn’t the source of home heating it once was, energy efficiency is still a consideration. Ten years ago, 80 per cent of heat could be lost up the flue. Today, ceramic glass draws that 80 per cent into the room. Radiant heat technology eases concerns about power outages since an electric fan is not necessary for operation. Pellet stoves—multi-fuel units—are also emerging as alternatives.



Photo: Courtesy Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants

An attractive fireplace can be an integral part of a room’s décor.

Homeowners today steer away from the traditional fireplace, moving toward a beautiful focal point, says designer Tara Lefebvre of Studio 2.0 Interior Design Consultants. “Everyone wants something customized and different. The shape has changed from the traditional square to long and narrow, circular or even freestanding. Mantels are slowly starting to disappear for a clean, minimalist look. On the surrounds, we see stone, tile, quartz, granite, or simply painted drywall or wood paneling.”

Thinking about where the fireplace goes in the home has changed, too. “People want it in different areas, not just the living and formal seating rooms. You now see fireplaces in the master bedroom and ensuite to create a relaxing and romantic mood.” Lefebvre notes another trend is integrating the fireplace with the large screen TV. There are challenges, including the need to direct heat away from the television. Mount the fireplace at a height that doesn’t create neck strain and in a locale to avoid the disquiet of competing focal points.

“I’m trying to discourage people from putting their TVs above their fireplace,” adds Leah of Gregg’s Plumbing and Heating.

Homeowners desire a soothing atmosphere, a focal point for relaxing conversation, says Lefebvre. But the simplicity, low maintenance and safety of gas or electric also fits a modern lifestyle. Leah agrees. “People used to feel a little trapped by a traditional wood-burning fireplace. You had to wait until the fire had gone out before going to bed or leaving the house. There was always a concern about a spark. Now you just flip the switch.”

The fireplace has evolved from a functional source of heat to a detail that showcases personal style. Whether you curl up in front of it with a good book, enjoy a glass of Chenin Blanc and some warm brie with friends, or play Uno with your children in its glow, the fireplace is again the heart of the home.

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BACKWORDS

Concordia Rising: The German Club Rebuilds After Fire

Over freshly baked *apfelkuchen* and several cups of coffee as strong and rich as I've had since Salzburg, Herb and Milli Pexa talk about loss—and possibilities—following the devastating fire in September that claimed the beloved German Concordia Club and its irreplaceable contents.

"The simple reason for the club was that there were so many Germans [in Saskatoon] without a homeland," explains Herb, a former president of the Club. His copies of newsletters are among the few things left to document Concordia's history. "We needed a home away from home and we felt we didn't fit in anywhere. In spite of Germans being one of the strongest ethnic groups in the province, after the war we had to earn our place in the community



Milli and Herb Pexa with some of the few pieces of memorabilia saved from The German Club fire. These were pulled out by a firefighter. Because nearly everything was destroyed, along with its fundraising work, the club will put out a call to the community for German souvenirs to display in the new building. (Below) Large mural that was in the banquet hall, painted by renowned artist Hans Herold.

again. To fit in, you work hard, and we showed that we deserve a place."

The Viennese couple fled occupied Austria in 1954 with a plan to live in Canada for five years. Herb's twin brother Walter was already here. "Then we would go home again," says Milli. "But this was not so. We made new friends here because we were lonely and homesick. At first, I didn't like it with no mountains. If we'd had money, we probably would have gone back right away."

Herb agrees. "After Austria, there was not much to look at, except each other," he chuckles. "But then you start to grow new roots. You have children and this is your new life."

Part of that new life, though, meant keeping the roots of ancestry alive in their new home.

"The only way you can convey your heritage and the culture you bring to this country is to show it in a positive way," says Herb. "So many people of German heritage came from all over Europe. They were driven



out of Russia and the Balkans, everywhere."

The German Club of Saskatoon existed before the war, but then Germans "became quiet and the club went to nothing." But later in 1957, the club was resurrected by Eugen Boensch and a handful of immigrants hungry for fellowship. Concordia, appropriately, means peace and harmony. Boensch became the first president. After buying and renovating the old Chicken Inn restaurant on eight acres at the edge of town, enthusiastic volunteers opened the doors to their own club in 1968.

Herb was president in 1986-87 when the group completed an addition so space could be rented for parties, small dances and weddings. Pexa resumed his position in 1996-97 and again in 2006-08.

"We wanted it to look like a European *gasthaus* in Europe, with *fachwerk*-- wooden beams with plaster and mud in between, like in the old days. So the *fachwerk* idea was the basis, and on the inside there would be lots of wood, lots of oak. People remembered what it all should look like." The Gasthaus Lounge and Edelweiss Dining Room were authentically decorated. A local

German craftsman created a handmade *kachelofen*, a ceramic tile fireplace, and a *stammtisch*, a big oval table for the 'regulars' was put in place. Past president Hans Herold, a renowned German artist, created a hand-painted eight by almost fifty-foot mural in the main hall that featured European landmarks. Now, it only exists on the Club website's home page: www.saskatoongermanclub.ca.

"It is so sad to think it is all gone now," Herb sighs. "Hans lives in Victoria today and he is now 85, so I don't think he could come back. He can't climb on scaffolding anymore to paint a large mural like the one he did before, so there will not be one."

The membership today ranges from 280 to 340, including many non-German members who came to the club because of its authentic atmosphere. It is that spirit that the club is determined to recreate in the new building.

"I think we will try to make the *fachwerk* style again," says Herb. "One million dollars of insurance and you don't go far with this, so the members must discuss many things."

The foundation left from the old club is sound, but is too close to the road to be used. Del Peters chairs the

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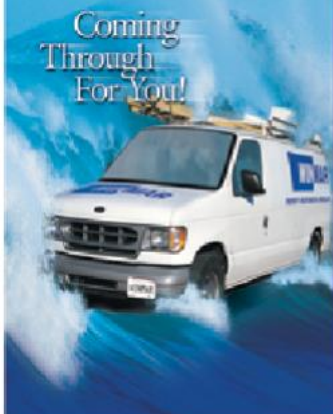
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View of the German Club from the road.

Photo: Courtesy Herb Pexa.

building committee which is going to use the winter months to review plans and "get everything down pat" with a start in the spring. "We are a non-profit and if you go in over your head, you get stuck. With luck, Herb predicts, the new club will open in December 2010. Currently, it has temporary meeting space with room for

parties and weddings in the Off Broadway Theatre at 639 Main Street.

"It will never be the same," Milli says sadly. "There was so much lost. All those beautiful steins, pictures of the beautiful costumes. The furniture. The mural. So many people tell us they are so sorry this happened". While Herb admits "a part

of my chest is missing," (not to mention all the original records of Club meetings, handwritten in German) such devastation is not a new thing. "This was taught to us at a very early age," he explains. "With air raids, something is here today and tomorrow just gone, only rubble and empty space." The Pexas look forward to

Richtfest, a celebration that marks the halfway point of a new building. When the roof is up, but not yet finished, it will be time to put up a small evergreen tree festooned with ribbons. The last *Richtfest* was held June 19, 1984 when the addition to the original building was underway.

"I am the kind of person who hangs on to something and sometimes this is not so good," says Milli. "You can't hang on, maybe." Then she grins, looking at Herb. "But, I have been hanging on to him for 57 years, and he's hanging on to me, too."

Air raids and fire may reduce bricks and mortar to rubble, but heritage and *Gemuetlichkeit* are not so easily destroyed. Busy with fundraising, rebuilding and running the daily operations, the Concordia Club continues to greet members and guests with a resounding *Herzlich Willkommen!* Perhaps by next summer, it will be time for *Richtfest*. New celebrations and fellowship will create new memories.

"This is life," says Herb. "Sometimes bad things happen, and it is not easy, but you begin again."

KARIN MELBERG SCHWIER

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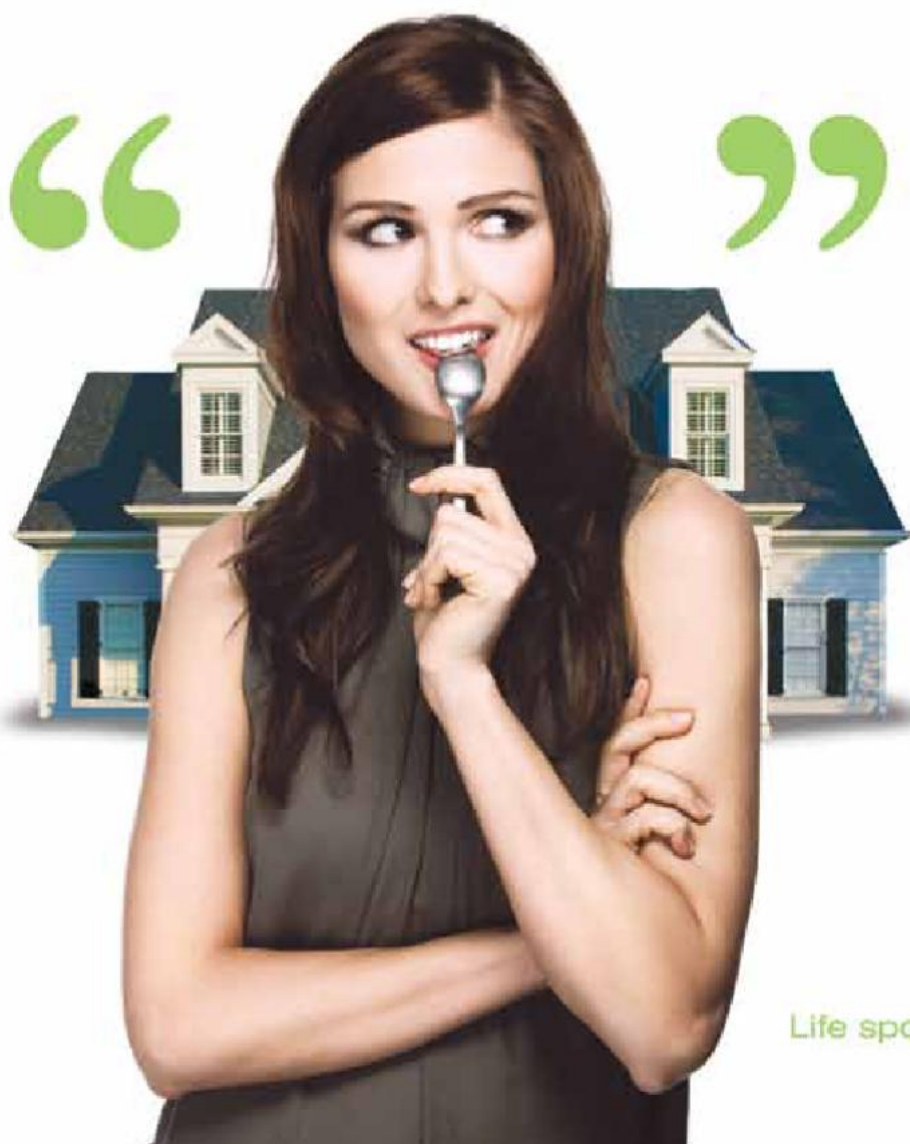
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